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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/707,313 | 12/04/2003 | Fides Carlos | 60655.2400 | 1312 |
| 66170 7590 09/04/2007 AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES CO., INC. c/o SNELL & WILMER, L.L.P. ONE ARIZONA CENTER 400 E. VAN BUREN STREET PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2202 | | | EXAMINER HAMILTON, LALITA M | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3691 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 09/04/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/707,313 | | CARLOS ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | | Art Unit | |
| | Lalita M. Hamilton | | 3691 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

The RCE filed on June 27, 2007 has been processed. A non-final follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cole (2003/0140005).

Cole discloses a method and computer-readable medium for letters of credit forfeiting exchange comprising an issuing bank issuing a letter of credit in favor of a beneficiary upon application by an applicant, an nominated bank advising said letter of credit to said beneficiary, a nominated bank receiving at least one document presented under the letter of credit for at least one of payment, acceptance, and negotiation, where said nominated bank and said issuing bank have agreed to program conditions pursuant to which said nominated bank, based upon its own examination of said document and before said document is forwarded to, received, and accepted by the issuing bank, will at least one of pay, accept, and negotiate said letter of credit with no or limited recourse to said issuing bank for discrepancies in said document, and said

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nominated bank examining said document for conformity to stipulated documents specified in said letter of credit; and where said document is determined to be in conformity with said stipulated documents, and where provided in said program conditions, said nominated bank at least one of paying, accepting, and negotiating said letter of credit with no or limited recourse to said issuing bank for discrepancies in said document (p.3, 73 to p.4, 85 and fig.2); letter of credit is restricted for negotiation to an office maintained by said nominated bank (p.3, 73 to p.4, 85 and fig.2); letter of credit is not restricted for negotiation to an office maintained by said nominated bank, and wherein said nominated bank is designated as a reimbursing bank, further comprising: at least one intermediary bank receiving said document; and said intermediary bank forwarding said document to said nominated bank for at least one of examination, payment, acceptance, and negotiation (p.3, 73 to p.4, 85 and fig.2); nominating bank confirms said letter of credit (p.3, 73 to p.4, 85 and fig.2); and document is determined to be discrepant, further comprising: requesting a waiver of the discrepancy from said issuing bank as provided in said program conditions; and where said waiver is obtained, said nominated bank at least one of paying, accepting, and negotiating said letter of credit with no or limited recourse to said issuing bank for other discrepancies in said document, or where not obtained, said nominated bank disposing of said document as provided in said program conditions without at least one of payment, acceptance, and negotiation (p.3, 73 to p.4, 85 and fig.2).

Although the Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art(s) of record in the body of this action, the specified citations are merely

representative of the teachings in the art as applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim. Since other passages and figures may apply to the claimed invention as well, it is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the Examiner.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

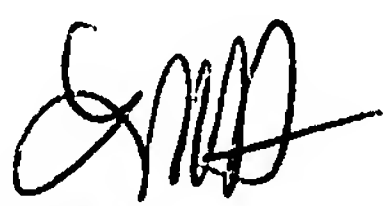
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lalita M. Hamilton whose telephone number is (571) 272-6743. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday (6:30-2:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kalinowski Alexander can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



LALITA M. HAMILTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER